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**Introduced by Senator Anderson**

February 23, 2015

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An act to amend Section 81001 of the Government Code, relating to the Political Reform Act of 1974.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 310, as introduced, Anderson. The Political Reform Act of 1974. Existing law, the Political Reform Act of 1974, provides for the comprehensive regulation of campaign financing. Existing law sets forth findings and declarations supporting the necessity of campaign finance regulation.

This bill would make a technical, nonsubstantive change to that provision.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1     SECTION 1. Section 81001 of the Government Code is  
2     amended to read:  
3     81001. The people find and declare as follows:  
4     (a) State and local government should serve the needs and  
5     respond to the wishes of all citizens equally, without regard to  
6     their wealth;  
7     (b) Public officials, whether elected or appointed, should  
8     perform their duties ~~in an impartial manner~~ *impartially*, free from  
9     bias caused by their own financial interests or the financial interests  
10    of persons who have supported them;

1 (c) Costs of conducting election campaigns have increased  
2 greatly in recent years, and candidates have been forced to finance  
3 their campaigns by seeking large contributions from lobbyists and  
4 organizations who thereby gain disproportionate influence over  
5 governmental decisions;

6 (d) The influence of large campaign contributors is increased  
7 because existing laws for disclosure of campaign receipts and  
8 expenditures have proved to be inadequate;

9 (e) Lobbyists often make their contributions to incumbents who  
10 cannot be effectively challenged because of election laws and  
11 abusive practices which give the incumbent an unfair advantage;

12 (f) The wealthy individuals and organizations which make large  
13 campaign contributions frequently extend their influence by  
14 employing lobbyists and spending large amounts to influence  
15 legislative and administrative actions;

16 (g) The influence of large campaign contributors in ballot  
17 measure elections is increased because the ballot pamphlet mailed  
18 to the voters by the state is difficult to read and almost impossible  
19 for a layman to understand; and

20 (h) Previous laws regulating political practices have suffered  
21 from inadequate enforcement by state and local authorities.